



State of Arizona

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## **Governor Brewer Seeks Relief from Massive Washington Mandates**

### ***Meets With Congressional Delegation on Arizona's Economy, Cost of Health Care Entitlement Expansion, Job Recruitment Efforts***

PHOENIX – With three years now beyond the initial signs of recession, and state revenues down 31% just since the summer of 2008, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer today met with members of Arizona's federal delegation to encourage defeat of an expensive expansion of federal health care mandates on the states. Federal health care proposals, particularly as proposed by the US Senate, would have a devastating fiscal impact to the State of Arizona's already challenging budget shortfall. Other proposals, such as the plan approved by the US House of Representatives, suggest a possible state government savings scenario but lock in Arizona to permanent service and spending mandates that are not affordable or sustainable even under the best economic conditions.

Since taking office in late January of 2009, Governor Brewer and the Arizona Legislature have enacted a total of \$1.05 billion in permanent budget reductions, eliminating state programs and services, and substantially reducing the state's work force.

"A mandated and permanent expansion of health care will cost Arizona taxpayers billions of dollars," said Governor Jan Brewer. "Whether the monies are collected by the states or the federal government, either scenario is expensive, ill-conceived, and will be paid for by hard-working Arizona citizens. This is nothing more than Congress imposing a future, hidden tax increase on Arizona taxpayers. Expanding federal entitlements now is absolutely irresponsible."

Other topics on the Governor's DC agenda included the state's economy, job recruitment efforts, and transportation.

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